



Rear (l to r): Richard Mammana, Brian Entz, Bishop Eugene Sutton, Terri Ofori, Dianna Wright, Neal Presa; front (l to r): Michael Booker, Canon Elise Johnstone, Anne Bond, Margaret Rose

Episcopal-Presbyterian Representatives Meet for Third Round of Dialogues

Representatives from [The Episcopal Church](#) and the [Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#) met at Glendale, OH at the [Transfiguration Spirituality Center](#) from October 7-9, 2019. Members present from The Episcopal Church: the Right Rev. Dr. Eugene Sutton (co-chair), the Rev. Canon Elise Johnstone (co-vice chair), Ms. Elizabeth Barker Ring (remotely), Dr. Michael Booker; the Rev. Margaret Rose and Mr. Richard Mammana served as staff. From the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): Ruling Elder Dr. Anne Bond (co-chair), the Rev. Dr. Neal Presa (co-vice chair), the Rev. Terry Ofori, the Rev. Brian Entz, the Rev. Robert Foltz-Morrison (remotely), and Ruling Elder Dr. Dianna Wright served as staff. Not at this meeting were Episcopal representative the Rev. Dr. Joseph Wolyniak and Presbyterian representatives the Rev. Dr. Christian Boyd and the Rev. Brooke Pickrell, who will join subsequent conversations.

The meeting launched the Third Round, 2019-2024, with prayers, fellowship, and discussion, and an acknowledgement that the dialogue took place on the traditional land of the Shawnee and Miami indigenous peoples. The group joined the sisters of the [Community of the Transfiguration](#) for Morning Prayer and the Eucharist. Representatives discussed the history of dialogues between the Episcopal Church and the Presbyterian Church, spanning for more than a century, with official bilateral conversations dating more than three decades ago. The Dialogue reviewed and affirmed 10 points of a [2008 Agreement](#), among which were mutual recognition of the two churches' belongingness to the one holy catholic apostolic church, mutual recognition of both bodies bearing the two marks of churches from the Reformation (preaching and sacraments), mutual recognition of one another's ordained ministries, mutual acknowledgement of the need to connect the Dialogue with [judicatories/mid councils and parishes/congregations](#).

Representatives celebrated the 2008 Agreement's hope for a full reconciliation of ministries, which would include an interchangeability of ministries between the two Churches, but acknowledged that much work needs to be done on the respective Churches' understanding of the historic episcopate and *episcopé* (oversight).

The representatives also reviewed and gave thanks for the work of the International Anglican-Reformed Dialogue between the [World Communion of Reformed Churches](#) and the [Anglican Communion](#), which met most recently in Japan August 23-30, 2019. That conversation [continues to examine](#) the nature of communion and reception of the 1984 report [God's Reign and Our Unity](#).

Representatives reviewed the mandate of this Third Round of Bilateral Dialogue as approved and authorized by The Episcopal Church's General Convention and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s 223rd General Assembly, both in 2018. The mandate focuses the Third Round of Bilateral Dialogue on such issues as what would be needed to lead both Churches towards full reconciliation of ordered ministries, the meaning of membership in a shifting American religious context, analyzing ecclesiological identities and differences using historic and socioeconomic lenses, and working with the respective national offices of both churches to develop guidelines and resources for mutual ministries and missions, particularly in areas of collaboration for new worshipping communities and ecumenical congregations.

The Dialogue table met with the pastoral leadership of the [Indian Hill Church](#), a 72-year old federated Presbyterian and Episcopal congregation which co-exists in one campus, with shared leadership, finances, governance, and worship, decidedly two distinct ecclesial traditions living as one community. Representatives listened to clergy leaders The Rev. Nancy Hopkins-Greene (Episcopal) and The Rev. Stephen Caine (Presbyterian), and local judicatory officials The Rev. Canon Lynn Carter-Edmands and General Presbyter Lisa Allgood, as they shared both the joys and challenges of this ecumenical "experiment."

The Dialogue expressed support of a current movement underway by leaders in The Episcopal Church for reparations for African Americans as a tangible expression of racial reconciliation in the United States, particularly in light of the quadcentenary of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. This might be an area of clear and immediate ecumenical collaboration between the two Churches.

On the final day, Dialogue representatives discussed and noted those communities and congregations across the country that are ecumenical collaborations, respective full communion partners, and the status of ongoing bilateral dialogues. Members reviewed an [online asset map of shared Presbyterian and Episcopal ministries](#), which include campus ministries, congregations, hospitals, retirement communities, creation care work, and food pantries. They also reflected on the importance of safeguarding standards and mutual reporting processes in ecumenical ministries across all of our partner churches. As the Dialogue closed the session with prayer, representatives grieved the news of the anti-

Jewish violence in Halle, Germany at a synagogue during the holy observance of Yom Kippur.

The Bilateral Dialogue will meet again on February 17-19, 2020, hosted by the Presbyterian delegation, at a location to be determined.

